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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/914,175	03/01/2002	Bryon E. Petersen	A32212-PCT USA	1973

21003 7590 05/07/2003

BAKER & BOTTS
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, QUANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1636

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/914,175	PETERSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Quang Nguyen, Ph.D.	1636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application, and they are subjected to the following restrictions.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 1-5 and 11-13, drawn to a method for stimulating liver regeneration in a subject having a liver disorder comprising administering of bone marrow cells, including bone marrow cells that are genetically engineered to express a functionally active protein, to said subject in an amount sufficient to result in the production of hepatocytes, bile ductal cells and/or oval cells.

Group II, claims 6-10, 11-12, 14 and 20-24, drawn to a method for stimulating liver regeneration in a subject having a liver disorder comprising the administration of enriched oval cells, including enriched oval cells that are genetically engineered to express a functionally active protein, to a subject in an amount sufficient to result in the production of hepatocytes, bile ductal cells and/or oval cells; a method for enriching for oval cells and a composition comprising an enriched population of oval cells.

Group III, claims 15-19, drawn to a method for **stimulating pancreatic regeneration in a subject** having a pancreatic disorder comprising administering of bone marrow cells, including bone marrow cells that are genetically engineered to express a functionally active protein, to said subject in an amount sufficient to result in the production of pancreatic cells.

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The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The method of each Group is materially different and plurally independent from the method of any other Group because each is practiced with materially different process steps (e.g., different sources or types of cells being administered to a subject and different target organs such as liver regeneration and pancreatic regeneration); the special steps are the special technical features that distinguish each method from the others. As such, a method for stimulating liver regeneration in a subject having a liver disorder using an effective amount of bone marrow cells of Group I, a method for stimulating liver regeneration in a subject having a liver disorder using an effective amount of enriched oval cells of Group II, and a method for stimulating pancreatic regeneration in a subject having a pancreatic disorder using an effective amount of bone marrow cells of Group III are materially different methods which require different technical considerations, reagents or starting materials (e.g., subject having a liver disorder, subject having a pancreatic disorder, bone marrow cells and enriched oval cells,) and endpoints to achieve different goals (e.g., to treat a subject with a liver disorder and to treat a subject with a pancreatic disorder). Because the process steps do not share the same or a corresponding technical feature, unity of invention is lacking.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons set forth above, it would be unduly burdensome for the examiner to search and/or consider the patentability of all of

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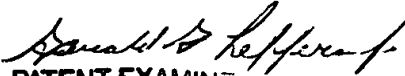
the inventions in a single patent application. Therefore, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17 (h).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang Nguyen, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 308-8339.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's mentor, Gerald Leffers, Jr., Ph.D., may be reached at (703) 305-6232, or SPE, Remy Yucel, Ph.D., at (703) 305-1998.

Quang Nguyen, Ph.D.


PATENT EXAMINE
A-4. 1636